

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated January 23, 2006, Applicants have amended claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of claims 5 and 6. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added. For the reasons set forth below, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

Claims 1-14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Noda et al. (USP No. 6,432,802) in view of Khosla et al. (USP No. 5,966,623). Applicant notes with appreciation that during a telephone interview on May 31, 2006 discussing the patentability of the pending claims, the Examiner agreed that the rejections set forth in the January 23, 2006 Office Action could be overcome by amending claim 1 to incorporate the limitations of dependent claims 5 and 6.

Accordingly, as Applicant has complied with the Examiner's suggestion, Applicant respectfully requests that the § 103(a) rejections set forth in the above cited Office Action be withdrawn.

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

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including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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